



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 709

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

WHEREAS the State of Alabama enjoys a rich diversity of community, faith-based, and other private charitable organizations that render effective aid to people in need, and the State of Alabama has one of the largest and most effective populations of faith-based and community-based organizations in the United States;

WHEREAS the citizens of Alabama recognize that government need not be the first nor the only provider of assistance to those in need, but that it is prudent for government to enlist the aid of, and partner with, independent community and faith-based organizations to meet the needs of its citizens;

WHEREAS since 1993 the Governor's Commission on National and Community Service has served to meet the needs of individuals and communities in Alabama through national service resources;

WHEREAS the State of Alabama should foster the growth of faith-based and community initiatives by integrating and coordinating its existing community and faith-based initiatives with the network of resources which are currently available in the state agencies;

WHEREAS it is vital for the State of Alabama to provide an effective mechanism for encouraging active participation by representatives of the faith-based community concerning the formulation and implementation of government programs to assist faith- and community-based organizations;

WHEREAS the State should ensure that its efforts to assist faith- and community-based programs are as strong, coordinated, and effective as possible by identifying and removing unnecessary administrative barriers to fair competition for government funding and leveling the playing field for faith-based, community-based, and other non-profit organizations so that the government may choose the most effective partner to provide the public services;

WHEREAS section 104 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 contains a “Charitable Choice” provision that encourages States to engage faith-based organizations on the same basis as all other private charitable organizations as providers of services to needy Alabamians and forbids discrimination against otherwise qualified faith-based organizations; and

WHEREAS it is critical for the State of Alabama to recommit and rededicate itself to faith- and community-based programs to render aid to the people of Alabama;

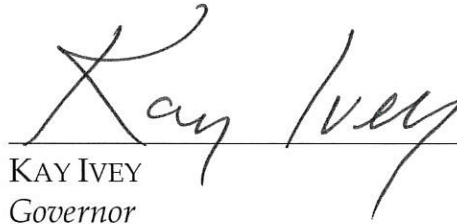
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby establish the Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services (“the Office”), effective immediately, and further order as follows:

1. **Leadership.** The Office shall be managed by a Coordinator, who shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Coordinator of the Office of Volunteer Services shall report to the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).
2. **Transfer of powers and duties.** Serve Alabama, the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Volunteer Service (“Serve Alabama”) and all of its functions, powers, authority, duties, and responsibilities pursuant to the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act of 2009, are transferred to the Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services established by this Executive Order. The Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services shall continue to serve as the operating agency of the Alabama Commission on National and Community Service and conduct its programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in accordance with all applicable national service laws, as set forth in 42 U.S.C. §§ 12638, et seq.
3. **Transfer of resources.** All appropriations, other monies, personnel, records, equipment and other property available to Serve Alabama are hereby continued in the Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services established under this Executive Order, and shall be available for the objects and purposes for which appropriated, pursuant to the National and

Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act of 2009, subject to all terms and conditions of such appropriations.

4. **Appropriations.** State general fund and education trust fund monies may be appropriated by the Legislature for the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services to be expended for the purposes heretofore or hereinafter stated in this Executive Order, subject to all laws governing expenditure of appropriated funds.
5. **Oversight.** The members of the Alabama Commission on National and Community Service will provide oversight to the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services pursuant to the authority and requirements contained in 42 U.S.C. § 12638. In accordance therewith, a minimum of 15 voting members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
6. **Prior related orders.** The following Executive Orders are hereby rescinded: Executive Order No. 653 (formerly Executive Order No. 30), signed May 24, 2012; Executive Order No. 590 (formerly Executive Order No. 21), signed June 22, 2004; Executive Order No. 531 (formerly Executive Order No. 41), signed December 15, 2000; and Executive Order No. 478 (formerly Executive Order No. 40), signed February 12, 1998. Where there is any conflict with any provision of any previously signed Executive Order, the provisions of this Executive Order shall prevail.

DONE AND ORDERED this 14 day of August, 2017.


KAY IVEY
Governor

ATTESTED


JOHN H. MERRILL
Secretary of State

